United Nations CERD/SP/SR.32

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Provisional
30 March 2010

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Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Twenty-third Meeting

Provisional summary record of the 32nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on 21 January 2010, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Mokhiber ..... (Representative of the Secretary-General)
Chairman: Mr. Le Luong Minh ..... (Viet Nam)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General

1. **The Temporary Chairperson**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, declared open the Twenty-third Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The number of States parties to the Convention was 173 at present. While that was cause for satisfaction, there remained some way to go towards the goal of universal ratification.

2. At its sessions in 2008 and 2009, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had considered 35 initial or periodic reports and had adopted conclusions and recommendations aimed at effectively implementing the Convention at the national level. The Committee had also continued to review the implementation of the Convention in States parties whose reports were seriously overdue.

3. At its seventy-fifth session, the Committee had adopted its General Recommendation No. 32, the purpose of which was to provide guidance on the meaning and scope of special measures under the Convention in order to assist States parties in the discharge of their obligations in that regard. Prior to the elaboration of the Recommendation, the Committee had discussed the issue at its seventy-third session, together with the States parties, representatives of other treaty bodies, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations.

4. At the same session, the Committee had adopted General Recommendation No. 33 on "Follow-up to the Durban Review Conference". In it, the Committee welcomed the impetus given by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to further implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

5. Important as the Convention's contributions had been, there was room for improvement. For instance, only 53 States parties had made the optional declaration recognizing the Committee's competence to receive communications under article 14 of the Convention, and consequently the individual communications procedure remained underutilized. Only four opinions had been taken by the Committee on communications during the past two years.

6. The Committee's workload had steadily increased and the General Assembly had therefore decided, in its resolution 63/243, to authorize the Committee to meet for one additional week per session from August 2009 until 2011.

7. With regard to the financing of activities under the Convention, the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/111, had endorsed the amendment to article 8 of the Convention providing for the financing of the Committee from the regular budget of the United Nations and had requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to provide for the financing of the Committee on that basis, beginning with the biennium 1994-1995. The Secretary-General had continued to ensure that the Committee received adequate funding. In order for the amendment to enter into force, acceptance must be received from two thirds of the States parties. To date, however, only 43 States parties had ratified the amendment, despite repeated calls by the General Assembly.

8. With regard to the election of nine members of the Committee to replace those whose terms of office would expire on 19 January 2010, it should be recalled that the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 18 September 2009, had invited the States parties to submit their nominations by 18 November 2009. The names of the nominees and an indication of the States parties that had nominated them were contained in document CERD/SP/72, which also contained the biographical data of the nominees. The names of the nine members of the Committee who would continue to serve until 19 January 2012 were listed in annex II to the document.

Election of the Chairperson

9. **Ms. Nyamudeza** (Zimbabwe), speaking as Chairperson of the Twenty-second Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, nominated Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam) for the office of Chairperson of the Meeting.

10. *Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam) was elected Chairperson by acclamation.*

11. *Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam) took the Chair.*

Adoption of the agenda (CERD/SP/71)

12. *The agenda was adopted.*

13. **The Chairperson**, drawing attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure (CERD/SP/2/Rev.1), said that the Secretary-General had not yet received credentials from a number of States parties represented at the Meeting. He therefore suggested that, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of those States parties should be permitted to participate in the Meeting provisionally, on the understanding that the States concerned would submit the credentials of their representatives to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

14. *It was so decided.*

Election of other officers of the Meeting

15. **The Chairperson** said that, under rule 4 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting should elect one to four Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of the States parties. He had been informed that Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Ms. Mac Intosh (Suriname) and Mr. Ciorobea (Romania) had been nominated for the office of Vice-Chairperson by their respective regional groups.

16. *Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Ms. Mac Intosh (Suriname) and Mr. Ciorobea (Romania) were elected Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation.*

Election of nine members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/SP/72)

17. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the list of candidates nominated by the States parties to replace the Committee members whose terms of office had expired on 19 January 2010, and their biographical data, contained in document CERD/SP/72. Altogether, nine candidates had been nominated for the nine vacancies. In that connection, he drew attention to the provisions of article 8 of the Convention relating to the election of members of the Committee, particularly paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5 (a).

18. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Djopke (Benin), Ms. Werdaningtyas (Indonesia) and Mr. Gavalec (Slovakia) acted as tellers.*

19. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	162
Number of valid ballots:	162
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	161
Required majority:	81

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Lindgren Alves (Brazil)	157
Mr. Ewomsan (Togo)	153
Mr. Kut (Turkey)	153
Mr. Saidou (Niger)	153
Mr. Amir (Algeria)	150
Ms. Crickley (Ireland)	149
Mr. Kemal (Pakistan)	149
Mr. de Gouttes (France)	147
Mr. Thornberry (United Kingdom)	144

20. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Amir (Algeria), Ms. Crickley (Ireland), Mr. de Gouttes (France), Mr. Ewomsan (Togo), Mr. Kemal (Pakistan), Mr. Kut (Turkey), Mr. Lindgren Alves (Brazil), Mr. Saidou (Niger) and Mr. Thornberry (United Kingdom) were elected members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.*

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.